

**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
PIKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
October 8, 2008  
9:00 AM**

The Pike County Board of Commissioners held their Regular Monthly Meeting on Wednesday, October 8, 2008 at 9:00 am in the Pike County Commissioners Meeting Room, Zebulon, Georgia. Members present were presiding Chairman Steve Fry, Commissioner Tommy Powers, Commissioner Jake Garner, Commissioner Roosevelt Willis and Commissioner Parrish Swift. Also in attendance were County Attorney Rob Morton and County Manager Steve Marro. (O.C.G.A. § 50-14-1(e) (2))

**CHAIRMAN FRY CALLED THE PIKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING TO ORDER AND ASKED EVERYONE TO JOIN HIM IN THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG.**

**CHAIRMAN FRY CALLED FOR APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA PURSUANT TO O.C.G.A. § 50-14-1(e) (1)**

The agenda was amended as follows:

- Add Executive Session- Personnel-Countywide pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(6)
- Add to Unfinished Business Second Reading of Special Revenue Funds Budgets

**MOTION**

Commissioner Willis made the motion to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Powers seconded the motion. 4-0 vote.

**CHAIRMAN FRY CALLED FOR APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING HELD TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2008 AT 6:30 PM PURSUANT TO O.C.G.A. § 50-14-1(e) (2)**

**MOTION**

Commissioner Willis made the motion approve the minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting held September 30, 2008 as written. Commissioner Swift seconded the motion. 4-0 vote.

**CHAIRMAN FRY CALLED FOR REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS, DEPARTMENTS AND COMMITTEES-MONTHLY REPORTS SUBMITTED FROM COUNTY DEPARTMENTS, BOARDS AND AUTHORITIES**

**MOTION**

Commissioner Willis made the motion to accept monthly reports as submitted from the county departments and authorities. Commissioner Swift seconded the motion. 4-0 vote.

**CHAIRMAN FRY CALLED FOR REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS, DEPARTMENTS AND COMMITTEES-COUNTY MANAGER REPORT**

County Manager Steve Marro said that the only item he had to discuss today was the signage and striping on Hwy 362. Mr. Marro followed up with Shane Adams at the Thomaston office regarding the letter he sent on August 20, 2008. Mr. Adams referred Mr. Marro to Mike England with the traffic operations division. Mr. Marro said that they spoke at great length about the signage and no passing lanes near Double P, through West Place and Blanton Mill Road on that rise in the hill. Mr. England said that he'd come out and do the survey himself. Mr. England can make immediate changes to the signage if necessary but was not aware of the re-striping issue. Chairman Fry said that it not a re-striping, saying that the area was never striped. Mr. Marro said that this is considered re-striping by Mr. England. Once Mr. England gets the survey done, he'll get a report back to Mr. Marro.

**CHAIRMAN FRY CALLED FOR REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS,  
DEPARTMENT AND COMMITTEES-COMMISSIONERS REPORT**

**District 1**- Commissioner Willis had no report today.

**District 2**- Commissioner Swift had no report today.

**District 3**-Commissioner Powers said that there are a lot of big trucks that are running on Shackelford Road and asked if they should be on this road. Chairman Fry said that he thought that was a no-thru truck road. Todd Goolsby said that they've put signs up. Chairman Fry asked how the bottom part of Shackelford Road was holding up. Todd Goolsby said that it was resurfaced last week.

Secondly, Mr. Powers said that the paved portion of McKinley Road was being worked on, saying that the county had patched the two bad spots.

**District 4**-Commissioner Garner had not yet arrived at the meeting.

Chairman Fry had no report today.

**CHAIRMAN FRY CALLED FOR REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS,  
DEPARTMENT AND COMMITTEES-COUNTY ATTORNEY REPORT**

County Attorney Morton said that the Adult Entertainment Establishment ordinance has been drafted. The rough draft is being reviewed by the CATF. The Planning Commission has scheduled a special called meeting for October 23, 2008 and they will be considering, after notice has run for public hearings, Chapter 90 which includes the roads. Also the sign ordinance public hearing will be before the Planning Commission on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, then presented to the Board of Commissioners on November 12<sup>th</sup>. Revisions or proposed revisions are being discussed related to PR and also PRD. Those are tentatively scheduled for the Planning Commission on November 13<sup>th</sup>. The Conservation Use Subdivision was approved by the Planning Commission on December 13, 2007. First Reading of that document will be November 12<sup>th</sup>, and the Second Reading will be December 10<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Garner arrived at 9:12 am during the County Attorney's report.

District 4-Commissioner Garner asked about the prosecution of Shawn Shoats. Commissioner Swift said that he had approached District Attorney Scott Ballard about this case and he said that he knew nothing about it but that Heath English might. County Attorney Morton said that he spoke with Scott Ballard in July and also met with Heath English in September. English said that they were still waiting for the complete documentation and he should have that this month. They were going to either take the case before the Grand Jury or take out an accusation.

**CHAIRMAN FRY CALLED FOR UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

A. Brian Cohen to review recommendations of ISO study. Chairman Fry noted that Mr. Cohen had not yet arrived and suggested that the discussion be tabled.

**MOTION**

Commissioner Garner made the motion to table Brian Cohen's ISO review recommendations of ISO study. Commissioner Swift seconded the motion. 5-0 vote.

B. Discussion of changing the fiscal year from November 1 through October 31 to July 1 through June 30. Mr. Marro said that he spoke with Mark Hardison, the auditor, who will do a presentation before the commissioners. Mr. Marro said that this is an elaborate process and that he was waiting for the report from Mr. Hardison.

C. Second Reading of Special Revenue Funds Budget. No changes have been made since the First Reading at the September 30, 2008 meeting.

**MOTION**

Commissioner Powers made the motion to approve Second Reading of the Special Revenue Funds. Commissioner Garner seconded the motion. 5-0 vote.

**CHAIRMAN FRY CALLED FOR NEW BUSINESS**

A. First Reading of Animal Control Ordinance. County Attorney Morton passed out the rough draft of the animal control ordinance. The draft was taken as information only; no First Reading took place today. Mr. Morton also requested that a workshop be held with regard to this ordinance. The First Reading of this ordinance will take place at the October 28<sup>th</sup> meeting. The workshop will be scheduled for next week.

B. FY 2008 Budget Amendment #18 to move funds from Contingencies to Juvenile Public Defender line item in the Court Budget. County Attorney Morton said that there were some funds that were being taken out of the Public Defender's budget to pay for guardian ad-litem that is responsible for juvenile court. The guardian's fees were being taken out of the Public Defender rather than Juvenile Court.

**MOTION**

Commissioner Garner made the motion to approve FY 2008 Budget Amendment #18. Commissioner Powers seconded the motion. 5-0 vote.

C. Barry Guest to discuss allowing his Webelos Boy Scout Troop to do a conservation project within Pike County. Mr. Guest was not present at today's meeting.

D. Ken Gran to discuss Agribusiness Authority milestones. Ken Gran is the Chairman of the Agribusiness Authority. Mr. Gran mentioned some of the events that the Agribusiness Authority has been involved in including the first Green Day; hosting FFA, Farm Bureau and Farm Heritage Day events at Chestnut Oaks. The Agribusiness Authority has supported the Market on the Square and has requested that the Market remain open through the winter. Mr. Gran said that total sales at the Market in 2007 were approximately \$83,000.00. Mr. Gran also said that they are trying to build restrooms out at Chestnut Oak.

**CHAIRMAN FRY CALLED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**MOTION**

Commissioner Powers made the motion to remove from the table the ISO discussion by Brian Cohen. Commissioner Swift seconded the motion. 5-0 vote.

Brian Cohen introduced his director, Mr. Skip Starling to the Board. Mr. Starling said that he was before the Board today to explain where the county stands with regard to changing its ISO rating. Per Mr. Starling, the county could have changed its rating a long time ago as it has the equipment necessary however the county does not have the certified water sources that is needed. ISO requires a minimum of five certified water sources in order to test. The dry hydrants were the issue in the past. Today, they are recommending the use of turbo drafts. According to Starling, a turbo draft is a mechanic less pump and is designed to be deployed with water that is available. The engineering is still needed where they pick out five sites per fire district so there will be twenty areas that must be certified. The turbo drafts would be deployed through the dry hydrants. This will allow the drop in ISO scores. Mr. Starling stated that ISO is holding a lot of insurance companies and agents 'hostage' saying that the number that one gets from ISO proves how well you can fight fire to a statistical number that the insurance industry uses. You need to be able to drop this number down to prove to the insurance companies that the fire departments can do a good job fighting fire. According to Starling, Pike County has been missing engineering in the past. There are

new rules that have changed and will make things a little different than they used to be. Mr. Marro asked Mr. Starling to define 'engineering'. Starling said that engineering means that the water sources have a PE stamp that proves that the water during the past 50 years has been maintainable. Mr. Marro asked who was responsible for this engineering. Mr. Starling said that they are responsible for this and they were almost done with it. Mr. Starling said that he'd like to have the engineering finished by November 1<sup>st</sup> and then apply for the ISO survey. Chairman Fry said that Pike County has eight fire stations; four county and four city, each one being a separate fire department for that respective city. He asked how much it is hurting the county since the four cities didn't participate in the study. Fry said that they function as one fire department with one chief. Chairman Fry asked how much it would help if the county either helped or paid for the cities to participate in this project. Mr. Starling said that the only way that the cities can get an ISO drop is for the city to do the study since there is no county fire station within the 5 mile radius of the city. For all of the unincorporated residents that live there, their entire fire rating comes from the city. It used to be that if everyone worked together under one fire department they could share manpower but that is not allowed anymore. If two fire stations are not within five miles of each other where they can touch each other, they can't share staff anymore. According to Starling, Pike County is now eligible for four fire act grants plus one for the county because there are actually 5 distinct fire departments. If these fire departments are combined together, that will drop the available grants to one throughout the entire county. The cities should take the test since they have unincorporated residents that they serve. This is the problem. Pike County has four fire departments that have never been challenged by the test. They are capable of doing it but have never done it. ISO won't rate better than a nine unless you have certified water sources. Class ten means that you either have an irregular way that you fight fire, that you aren't big enough or have a class A fire truck. A class nine means that you do have fire suppression capability but the insurance carriers feel that you are at risk. The neighbor's house might not burn down but yours will. Within class seven and eight, you're doing a little bit better but the insurance industry doesn't feel confident enough that you'll stop this house fire if it's possible. Class six, five and four are preferred classes. Per Starling, in 16 years they have never had anyone score worse than a class six. To get a class six or better, the department needs to prove that they have class A trucks, the capability and trained personnel. It doesn't matter to ISO if the fire department is paid or volunteer. Since Pike County is rural, the ISO rating will have two numbers. The first number is how well you fight a fire. They'll pick a structure within 1000 feet of a water source and then they'll judge if you can put enough water on the fire to put that fire out. The second number is literally how well you move the water. Mr. Starling said that you can't do a water shuttle without a certified water source. You need a tanker at every station and Pike County has only two tankers. It was mentioned that the county has four tankers but Mr. Starling said that two of them were too small. A tanker with less than a 3,000 gallon capacity is not sufficient. It was mentioned that each truck needs a turbo draft. Chairman Fry suggested using a part of the \$5,000.00 that each city gets from the county for fire protection for the study. Chairman Fry asked Mr. Starling if it was too late to include the cities in the study and the reply was no, it is not too late. County Manager Marro said that the only comment he got from Chief Tom Tyree was that the report is 'garbage'. Mr. Marro suggested getting the committee put back together to work on this. Mr. Marro also asked if Public Works would be asked to maintain the dry hydrants. Commissioner Swift said that it's hard to ask volunteers to do this. The dry hydrants need to be maintained twice each year. Chairman Fry said that the county can not tell the city fire department to do the study but they it can make the money available if they choose to participate. Chairman Fry also said that the cost of the 4 turbo drafts needed should come out of the fire department's budget for the current year. Mr. Marro said that he has received no feedback from Chief Tyree. Mr. Starling said that he'll need to meet within two weeks with a fire department liaison and that Station 6 was the only station that had all of its paperwork turned in. Getting an interim fire chief was discussed and Mr. Marro was given 24 hours to contact Chief Tom Tyree.

## **MOTION**

Commissioner Garner made the motion to make money available to the cities for the ISO study. The money is to come from Contingency. Commissioner Willis seconded the motion. 5-0 vote.

Don Collins stated that each of the mayors was sent a letter and that he only heard back from Mayor Story. Mr. Collins said that three of the four stations are good; Molena is a problem. Per Mr. Marro, Brian Cohen has met with the cities and that the mayors all know about the ISO study.

**CHAIRMAN FRY CALLED FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- Personnel-Countywide pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(6)
- Pending/Potential Litigation pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 50-14-2(1)

**MOTION**

Commissioner Swift made the motion to exit Regular Session and enter into Executive Session for the purposes of Personnel-Countywide pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(6) and Pending/Potential Litigation pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 50-14-2(1) at 10:20 am. Commissioner Powers seconded the motion. 5-0 vote.

**MOTION**

Commissioner Powers made the motion to exit Executive Session and re-enter Open Session at 11:31 am. Commissioner Swift seconded the motion. 5-0 vote.

**MOTION**

Commissioner Powers made the motion to adjourn at 11:32 am. Commissioner Swift seconded the motion. 5-0 vote.

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Chairman Steve Fry  
Pike County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

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Steve Marro  
County Manager